

SITUATION REPORT NO. 9
INCIDENT NO. 96-37
DATE: April 23, 1996 **TIME: 9:00 a.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood. (Separate situation reports are being issued regarding Devils Lake, incident #96-01.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: The effects of high Sheyenne River levels in Barnes County include closing of County Road 21, (Kathryn Road), south of Valley City. Local officials report 39 families and 45 residents and employees of Maryvale have been isolated. Four rural families have been forced to evacuate.

The Sheyenne River level at Lisbon is at 16.10 feet. The river is forecast to crest on April 25 at 18-19 feet.

The City Center Mall basement in Grand Forks was flooded.

The Red River reached 41.6 feet at Drayton, flood stage is 32 feet. The Red River reached 48.7 feet at Pembina, flood stage is 42 feet. At Pembina, the river is forecast to crest at 52.5 feet on April 28. The river level is slowly receding at Grand Forks. It is currently 45.08 feet.

A Pembina River aerial reconnaissance from its mouth to Swan Lake, Manitoba, revealed that the second crest at Neche from Manitoba snowmelt will be as projected, about 22.0 feet on April 26.

Foster County officials report 15 additional road sites are damaged from flood waters.

Cavalier County officials report a total of 110 county and township road sites in 15 townships damaged from flood waters.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The North Dakota American Red Cross established a temporary headquarters at the N.D. National Guard Armory in Grand Forks.

The American Red Cross (ARC) reported on its activities to date. The ARC has served 5,000 meals, opened 22 cases for possible assistance, expended \$3,000 in individual assistance, distributed 600 cleanup kits, and is conducting an ongoing detailed damage assessment. The ARC has been housing 16 people in a shelter set up at the Grafton Armory.

The American Red Cross is housing two of the four Barnes County families that evacuated their homes. The other two families are staying with relatives.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: In addition to staff support in Barnes and Ransom Counties, the N.D. Division of Emergency Management dispatched staff members to Cass and Pembina Counties to help coordinate flood-fighting efforts.

The inflows into Lake Ashtabula, the reservoir for Baldhill Dam, dropped from 7,850 cfs (cubic feet per second) to 5,600 cfs. As a result, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reduced releases from Baldhill Dam by 1,000 cfs to 4,500 cfs on April 22. The Sheyenne River level at Valley City is expected to fall about one foot as a result, relieving pressure on the dikes.

The N.D. Highway Patrol provided an aircraft for Pembina County officials to conduct an aerial survey of the Pembina River from Swan Lake Manitoba to the Red River to survey for ice jam potential and the location of high river levels from Canadian snowmelt.

The Lisbon City Council issued an emergency declaration on April 16.

Eddy County road crews were repairing roads where possible to allow access for emergency services vehicles and school buses.

A meeting of the city of Kindred officials and representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cass County Division of Emergency Management, Richland County Division of Emergency Management, a local engineering firm and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management was held to develop flood-fighting requirements for Kindred.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: All local requests for assistance have been addressed.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: The St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has provided technical and equipment assistance to state and local officials.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: Pembina County officials anticipate coping with additional flood waters later this week at the confluence of the Pembina and Red Rivers. Canadian waters traveling down the Pembina River are expected to crest at the same time as the Red River. This could cause the water from the Red River to back up into the Pembina River, causing overland flooding from Neche to Pembina, along the Canadian border.

Signed _____

Douglas C. Friez
State Director